The Central Social Welfare Board proposes to have at least 2 Family Counselling Centres for Women in all districts by the end of Eleventh Plan. 60 new Family Counselling Centres will be opened during 2007-08.

Inter-country adoption rules

2903. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to relax the rules governing inter-country adoption to make it simpler for foreigners to provide new homes to Indian children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to control exploitation of such adopted children by NRIs and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to simplify the adoption process for everyone, including foreigners, the existing Guidelines for adoption have been reviewed based on suggestions received, for appropriate consideration.

(c) The Guidelines for adoption include mechanisms to control exploitation of adopted children by NRIs and others.

Malnutrition among children

2904. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of children suffering from malnutrition in the country;

(b) how far the position has worsened since census of 2001;

(c) whether it is a fact that low birth weight is high in the country in comparison to other South Asian countries on the basis of human development report;

(d) whether the situation is improving from year-to-year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - 3 (2005-06), conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 45.9% children are suffering from malnutrition in the country.

(b) After the census of 2001, only National Family Health Survey - 3 has been conducted in year 2005-06. However, as per NFHS, the extent of malnutrition among children declined from 52% in 1992-93 to 45.9% in 2005-06.

(c) to (e) As per the Human Development Report, 2006 the prevalence of low birth weight in India is 30% which is higher in comparison to other South Asian Countries except Bangladesh attached herewith as a Statement (*See* below). There is no nationally representative survey incorporating weight at birth.

Statement

Infant with Low Birth Weight (LBW) among South Asian Countries

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	% 1996-2004
1.	India	30
2.	Bangladesh	30
3.	Maldives	22
4.	Sri Lanka	22
5.	Nepal	21
6.	Pakistan	19
7.	Bhutan	15

Source: Human Development Report, 2006.

Supplementary food under ICDS

2905. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of supplementary nutritious food provided to children under three years of age under the ICDS Scheme in different States;

(b) whether only in a few States such children are given fortified blended food as complementary food, while others have discontinued providing fortified mixes to these children;

(c) whether the Apex court has directed that contractors should not be used for procurement of food and only hot cooked meals be provided to this age group;

(d) if so, how far the above ruling has been implemented in different States, indicating the status of its implementation in these States; and

(e) if not, what is the plan of Government to ensure that children at this vulnerable age receive the essential micronutrients such as vitamin A and iron?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The type of supplementary food given to children below 3 years of age varies from State to State, depending on the local availability. As per the information given in the Affidavits filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court by the States the type of food ranges from weaning food, Take Home Ration and Ready To Eat food fortified with vitamins and micronutrients.

(c) The Apex Court *vide* its Order dated 7.10.2004 has directed as follows:

"The contractors shall not be used for supply of nutrition in Anganwadis and preferably ICDS funds shall be spent by making use of village communities, Self-help Groups and Mahila Mandals for buying of grains and preparation of meals".

(d) and (e) As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the States are required to individually file an Affidavit before the Court indicating the status of implementation.